discussions with the representatives of the State Government. Pursuant to this decision, two meetings have since been held on 22.11.1999 and 25.11.1999.

Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle militancy in J&K, which includes inter-alia gearing up intelligence machinery, strengthening border maangement, galvanising development programmes and deepening of democratic process etc. Government has reimbursed a sum of Rs. 179.49 crore to the Jammu and Kashmir Government as additional security related expenditure and Rs. 43.31 crore towards debt relief scheme during the current financial year, over and above the assistance extended by other Ministries/Departments administratively concerned with various developmental schemes.

Grants for J&K

2207. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be

pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to discuss with the Jammu and Kashmir Government the security, development and financial aspects relating to J&K, in view of constant threat perception from militants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the grants sanctioned for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The interactions with Government of Jammu & Kashmir on security, development and financial aspects is a continuous process. The matter is reviewed from time to time by a number of committees where State Government has strong representation. Special meetings are also called to sort out important issues. In one such review, the Home Minister convened a meeting to review the security and financial situation in J&K on 17.11.1999, which was also attended by the Chief Minister and high ranking Officers of Jammu & Kashmir. It was decided therein inter-alia that representatives from the Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure and Ministry of Home Affairs would make an assessment of the short and medium term financial requirements of the State, after having further discussions with the representatives of the State Government. Pursuant to this decision, two meetings have since been held on 22.11.1999 and 25.11.1999.

Government has reimbursed a sum of Rs. 179.49 crore to the Jammu & Kashmir Government as additional security related expenditure and Rs. 43.31 crore towards debt relief scheme during the current financial year, over and above the assistance extended by other Ministries/Departments administratively concerned with various developmental schemes.

Purchases by House keeping section of MHA

2208. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the House Keeping Section of the Ministry of Home Affairs on purchase of items from Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) from each of the three sources, separately, during the last five years;

(b) whether stationery items have also been purchased from NCCF, which is at a distance of 15 Kms. from office, instead of being purchased from nearby stores, i.e. Super Bazar/Kendriya Bhandar; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) According to the available information, the expenditure incurred by this Ministry on purchase of items from Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF during the last five years was as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Super Bazar	Kendriya Bhandar	NCCF
1994-95	0.84	105.99	54.15
1995-96	—	148.12	24.64
1996-97	0.35	155.04	43.79
1997-98	0.001	150.54	74.51
1998-99	0.07	144.39	146.36
Total	1.261	704.08	343.45

(b) and (c) The purchase of stationery items from NCCF is being made strictly in terms of the instructions issued by the Government which, inter alia, provide that Government Departments may make all local purchase of stationery and other items either from Kendriya Bhandar or Super Bazar or NCCF. Administrative decision to purchase particular items from either of the three sources depends on several factors, such as, availability of those items at a given point of time, comparative quality of the items, delivery period, etc. Both Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF deliver the purchased goods at the Ministry's store and the location of either of the two organisations is immaterial.

Declaring SSB as Para-Military Force

2209. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration by Government to declare Special Security Bureau (SSB) as a para-military force; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what are the requirements for declaring a force as para-military force?